POLITICO-ECONOMIC REVIEW

OF

BASARABIA

BY

CAPTAIN JOHN KABA

UNITED STATES ARMY,

MEMBER OF THE HOOVER COMMISSION FOR ROUMANIA.

JUNE 30, 1919.

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BASARABIA.

INTRODUCTION.

Colonel W. N. Haskell, General Staff, United States Army, Director of the American Relief Administration in Roumania, upon my arrival in Bucarest on April 21, 1919, as a member of the Hoover Commission to Roumania, sent me to Basarabia to serve as the supervising officer of the mission, thereat, to witness the proper distribution of the foodstuffs sent there by the Allies, to study the minimum needs of the province, its economic, social, political and general conditions, sending in fragmentary reports as my study progresses or as special circumstances arise. This leaflet gives a brief summary of this study, and also my observations.

THE FAITH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND.

I spent nearly two months travelling from town to town, from village to village, by automobile, horsewagon, horseback, by foot, train, freight train, etc. The City of Chisinau was my starting point going both North and South. Remarkable, where ever I went, everybody knew that I was an American Army Officer, the rumor preceded my arrival, everybody hailed me as the representative of the Great America, the Saviour of mankind. Here and there, one said I was an English officer, paying not less compliments to Great Britain. They all knew, I was told, that America was going to send them bread, clothing and medicines, but they did not know how soon, here, now their dream was realized. I cautiously explained that clothing and medicines do not come within the activity of my service, but all in vain, they explained to me that America is going to send them clothing and medicines, too, as they have none, and need lots of them, and America has plenty of everything. Faith subdues obstacles, as hardly one month after my arrival in Basarabia, on a short telegram from me to Colonel Wells, Chief of the American Red Cross in Roumania, clothing and medicines followed. Then again, Mr. Barnet Zuckerman, representing the Joint Distribution Board, American Funds for Jewish War Sufferers, reported to me with some more clothing and money.

THE ROUMANIAN LANGUAGE, EVERY WHERE.

With the Roumanian language one can travel all over Basarabia, as almost two thirds of the population (about 2,000,000) are Roumanians (Moldoveni), while the other one third (nearly 1,000,000) are Jews, Ruthenians, Russians, Germans, Poles, Bulgarians, and others. Jews comprise about one tenth of the total population, the various Russian races a like number, while the remainder, nearly, one half million is divided up into various other races. I have spoken Roumanian in Hotin District to Russian colonists, which they understood fairly,—to the various races in the Ismail and Cetatea Alba (Acherman) Districts, and got along fairly well. The Jews showed a special talent for the languages, for even children are able to speak three languages (Roumanian, Yiddish and Russian, or in lieu of Russian, Polish or Bulgarian) in most of places. Intelligent, well educated Russians told me in faultless Roumanian that they are thankful to the Roumanian Government for keeping away the Bolshevism from Basarabia, but they do not understand why Russian children should learn the Roumanian language, in addition to their own, while further conversation disclosed the fact that during the Russian regime the children of 2,000,000 Roumanians were not allowed to learn their own language in the schools, but had to learn the language of the 300,000 Russians, hardly one seventh of their own number.

GOVERNMENT BY THE ROUMANIANS.

More than two thirds of the total population is satisfied with the change from the autocratic Russian regime to the constitutional Roumanian Government, and since last month (May, 1919) the Roumanian king proclaimed the equality and citizenship of the Jews, the opposition of another 270,000 inhabitants is about to disappear. As a matter of fact on May 10 th, in the town of Balti, during the celebration of the National Holiday, I listened to a loyalty speech held by a prominent Jew, representing certain part of the Jews in the town and district of Balti, he made a better impression, than the majority of the speakers of the day, as there was nothing to suggest that his speech was not sincere. The fate and treatment of the Jews by the Czar's Government is in the fresh memory of the Americans, which led to the adoption of the *Sulzer resolution* by the Congress. Here and there we hear a complaint by the Jews against the Roumanians, and a glorification of the old Russian regime, but we who heard enough against the Czar's Government from the American Jews and Jewish organizations, cannot very well conceal a suggestion that such complaints and glorifications are not entirely sincere.

Naturally, Basarabia is a zone of operations for the Roumanian Army, and this accounts for some grounds, but outside of the American and English Armies, which armies do not make requisitions and here and there some minor abuses? I am quite certain that if all abuses would be brought to the attention of officers, irrespective how trifle they were, change to the better would follow. Russian landlords and Russian priests while grateful for being saved from the Bolshevism, oppose the Roumanians, as they were well taken care of during the Czar's Government, — while on the other hand the Roumanians introduced their new Agrar Law, whereby all large real estates are divided up amongst the peasants, who actually worked the land in the Russian days. This, even the Russian peasants prefer to the old system. The 70,000 Germans, in the south, sent a delegation to Bucarest, to assure the Roumanian king of their loyalty. The Basarabean Poles and Greeks and also French colonists are likewise for the Roumanians. Amongst the Bulgarians, in the south, every now and then, some revolutionary movement is discovered, but almost invariably it leads to sources outside of Basarabia. My impression is that after the harvest when 85% of the normal production will be realized, this year, — agitators will miss their main argument that the bad year is due to the return of the Roumanian Government after an absence of 106 years, and 40 years, for the southern districts.

BOLSHEVISM.

After the collapse of the Kerensky Government, the Russian troops retiring from Roumania, joined by a few local do-nothings, pillaged the houses of the wealthy landowners, destroyed and burned their property, and this gave the Basarabeans a taste of the first stage of the Bolshevism. This was the period when the Bolsheviks were prosperous and the subsequent misery thereof was not even in sight. The better class of the Basarabeans immediately begann organization and shortly thereafter declared their independence from Russia and formed the »Republica Moldovenească« (Roumanian name meaning Moldovan Republic). As things progressed, they saw that they cannot exist from their own resources, to organize an Army in order to protect themselves against the Bolsheviks from across the Nistru River, or to sufficiently police the country against those, at home, who unpunished tasted already the fruit of the pillage and robbery, the »Sfatul Tari« (Roumanian name meaning State Council) asked Roumania, their mother country (muma), to take them back into her protection and permit their re-union, which later was accomplished. Bolshevik agitation is going on all over Basarabia, just as it is in other countries of Europe, but at any rate it is not as open, as else where, in Europe. Russian Bolshevik aeroplanes

drop manifests almost weekly but they are confiscated by the authorities and often exchanged with other manifests containing skillful counter-propaganda conducted by the Roumanian General Staff and by the prefects. One, who knows the Roumanian (Moldovan) peasant, could readily see that no Bolshevik propaganda could ever induce him to declare his own land a „common« property, that he shall work for the rest of his life for others and not for his children. This I heard, direct, from the very mouth of the peasants, when I facetiously asked them why they do not do as the others do across the Nistru River. I was amazed to see so much common sense in a practically illiterate person, his simple arguments made me understand, first handed, why the Russian Bolsheviks have so many troubles with the peasants. The Bolshevik agitators are the paid agents of Trotzky, who, however, do not earn their pay on account they are too cautious and, practically, silent. Not only that they cannot show any progress, but the contrary is becoming more evident, and when, after the harvest, normal economic conditions are reestablished, they will have to earn their bread with some other occupation. I consider the mass of the Basarabean people, the Roumanians, Russian peasants, Germans, Poles, etc., practically immune from the Bolshevik doctrine. I spoke with several representative Jews in all parts of Basarabia from whom I learned that their race is just as much opposed to the Bolshevism, as are the Roumanians, and others, but they concede that, unfortunately, in their race there are undesirables, as are in the other races. The only danger I see, which is more outstanding here, than in other European countries, that if the Bolsheviks from across the Nistru River would overrun the country, pillage, robb, destroy everything here, and after joining their adherents, force some of the other elements into their ranks. The Nistru River separates Basarabia from the land of the Bolsheviks.

THE ROUMANIAN ARMY IN THE FIGHT FOR THE CIVILIZATION.

On this side (right) of the Nistru River, from Galitzia and Bucovina down to the Black Sea, is spread the Roumanian Army. It keeps watch on the frontier of the civilization, to save it from destruction, to save the progress of the mankind made in centuries from retrogression, to save the rest of Europe, probably, the rest of the world, from the fate and misery of unfortunate Russia. They are fighting the battles, not merely, of Roumania, but those of whole civilization. Here, I cannot help thinking, that on the western border of their country, at the Tisa River, they, the Roumanians, are fighting Bela Kun's Hungarian Bolsheviks. They are fighting in rags, barefooted, and often hungry. At Tighina (Bender), Soroca and Hotin I visited the front and I saw

barefooted soldiers, in rags, resting after an engagement with the Bolsheviks. I inspected their food, lodging, etc. It is sufficient to keep the soul in their body, one would think, but I have never seen a better morale prevailing amongst troops, than amongst the men of the Roumanian Army. They are very good soldiers, well trained, obedient, claim but little and one can have them do most anything. Their fare is as follows: Breakfast - nothing; Dinner - beans, or twice a week, meat; Supper - beans or twice a week, meat. I heard, they receive some times a drink of whiskey in the morning, but I heard of no breakfast. Yet, I must record, I have seldom seem a happier lot of young men, than the Roumanian soldiers are. Talking to veterans of the Great War one, invariably, gains the impression that the Roumanian soldier (enlisted man) has respect for the German as a fighter, he says that the Germans fought honorably (cinstit) when they fought with them, but it immediately will be followed by his hatred for the Bulgarians, who were so brutal as to kill or mutilate the non-combatants, and prisoners of war, cutting their ears, noses, tongues, sexual organs, or hands, and to dishonor the women and girls. Officers, all over, gave me the same impression and I really believe that there is something to be settled, to a finish, between the Roumanians and the Bulgarians, which no International Agreement, of whatever name, will be able to prevent.

ROUMANIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

On June 15, 1919, under the expert advice of my colleague, Captain James Dangerfield, jr., Ordnance Department, United States Army, we organized a branch of the Roumanian Children's Relief Association, at Chisinau, for the City and District of Chisinau, combined. The Mayor of Chisinau, the Prefect of the District of Chisinau, the Chisinau City Physician, and two Directors of an existing Orphan's Home, are the members of the Central Committee. This association, in Roumania, was organized under the patronage of the Queen, on Mr. Hoover's initiative and pecuniary assistance. The Roumanian Government contributes a good deal of the expenses, at present, but it is hoped that collections will be made all over the country and collect sufficient funds from the public to make this organization permanent, supported, solely, by private donations. It is one of the greatest ideas of the twentieth century for the benefit of the mankind, to save children from death by causes originating from malnutrition, and to make up wastage, in human beings, caused by the Great War. It is intended to extend this organization, with certain modifications, all over the country, to give each child, under 15 yeras of age, one good meal, each day. I understand Mr. Hoover put into existance similar organizations all over Europe.

GEOGRAPHY.

BOUNDARIES.

Situated between the 45^0 9' and 48^0 38' Latitude, North, and 25^0 4' and 28^0 8' East, meridian of Paris. Separated from the main body of Roumania and bounded by the Prut River, West, and, by the Danube River, South (in part) bounded by the Black Sea, South and South East, by the Nistru River, East, North-East and North, which also separates Basarabia from Russia and Poland,—while North-West it has no natural frontier it being contiguous to Bucovina for a distance of 55 kilometers from the village of Onuta, on the Nistru River, as follows: Along the Onuta creek for 16 Kilometers, then through a forest, marked with landmarks, for 15 Kilometers up to the place where the Aria creek joins the Rachita creek, near the village of Rachita, and then following the Rachita creek until it joins the Prut River, a distance of about 24 Kilometers, near the town of Noua-Sulitza.

AREA.

44,936 square Kilometers, approximately, 4.400,000 hectars.

POPULATION.

Nearly 3,000,000 (2,625,000 last census).

CAPITAL.

The capital of Basarabia is *Chisinau*. It is situated within the geographical limits of the District of Chisinau but is entirely independent from the district, it being a city similar to Bucharest, having its own administration. It has 133,000 inhabitants, and is the seat of the Government-Delegate, who is a member of the Roumanian Cabinet, under the name of Minister for Basarabia, and who has immediate controll over the administration of the province. Here is also the seat of the Roumanian (Greek-Orthodox) Bishop, the Consistorium, and, at present, of the Commandant of the Fifth Army Corps. It has many beautiful Greek-Orthodox, one Catholic, one Armenian, and two other churches, and several Jewish synagogues. It has fourteen factories, seven lyceums (high schools) for boys and girls, many primary schools, hospitals, orphan's asylums, homes for aged people, etc., etc. It has a famous museum, library, several monuments and public parks. The city is about 6 Kilometer long, $4^1/_2$ Kilometer wide and has a good electric railway communication on its streets. It has a busy railway station on the Tighina (Bender)—Jassy Line. There is one theater, several moving picture and varietè show places, banks, clubs, and philantropic societies. There is one Roumanian daily, the »Sfatul Tarei«, one Russian, the

„Bassarabia", and several Roumanian magazines. There are about 2,000 stores, hotels, restaurants, etc., in the city, but for an American, according the American standards, only one or two hotels could be considered, and then one would be subject to some privations. About the half of the population are Jews, the others are Roumanians, Russians, Poles, Greeks, Bulgarians, etc.

DISTRICTS.

1.—*Chisinau*. It takes in the central part of Basarabia, which at the same time is the most picturesque. It presents a view of wide and deep valleys, with numerous forests, mountains and hills, with beautiful gardens and vineyards. There are 159 towns and villages in the district, the populations of which are almost exclusively Roumanians. For administrative purposes these towns and villages are grouped into 13 volostas (subdistricts). The most important towns (market places) are: Gancesti, Calarasï, Nisporeni, and Nemteni. The total population is about 250,000 (the city of Chisinau not included). This in an agricultural and wine growing district.

2. *Hotin*. It is situated on the northern part of the province, contiguous to Bucovina on the West, otherwise bounded by the Nistru and Prut Rivers, and by the Soroca and Balti districts. Its capital is the town of Hotin, with a population of 35,000, half of which are Jews, the others Roumanians, Ruthenians, Russians, Armenians, etc. The town of Hotin is built on the right bank of the Nistru River, on the side of two hills, what lends it a picturesque view. This town plays a great roll in the history of Roumania, in her fight with the Poles and the Turks. Stephen, the Great, in 1459, Michael, the Brave, in 1600, and later other Roumanian (Moldovan) rulers had to fight the Turks, Poles, or the Russians to save this important strategic town.

In the district there are 12 volostas (subdistricts) with 173 villages. The southern part of the district is connected by railway with Cernovitz, the capital of Bucovina, and also with Balti, the capital of the district of the same name. It is an agricultural district, with plenty of tobacco and orchards. The only sugar factory in Basarabia is located in this district, at Zorojan, which during the Bolshevik disturbances was destroyed, but not beyond repair. The district has 366,000 population, about half of which are Roumanians, the others are Russian colonists exchanged by the Russian Government for the Roumanians colonized in Siberia and in the Caucasus, also Jews, etc.

3. *Soroca*. In the northern part of Basarabia, between the Nistru River, the districts of Hotin, Balti and Orhei. It is the most mountainous part of the province with deep, fertile valleys, producing great quantity of wheat, maize, tobacco and grapes. It is subdivided into 12

subdistricts with 185 towns and villages. The district of Soroca has 310,000 population of which 235,000 are Roumanians, 25,000 Jews, the others, Russians, Germans, etc.

The capital of the district is Soroca, with 35,000 population, the majority of which are Jews, the others Roumanians, Russians, Germans, etc. It is the most beautifully located town in Basarabia, on the right bank of the Nistru river, on the side of a steep mountain. There is a fortress erected by Stephen, the Great, the famous Roumanian ruler, about 500 years ago. There are few places in Greater Roumania, where more Roumanian blood was shed as here in Soroca. It witnessed great battles with the Turks, Poles, Tartars, Kozaks, etc. Other important places in the district are: Vadrascu, Capresti, Marculesti and Floresti.

4. *Balti.* It is one of the northern districts of Basarabia, located between the districts of Hotin, Soroca, Orhei, Chisinau and the main body of Roumania (Moldova). As the rest of Basarabia, this district is principally agricultural district, with great quantity of tobacco, large vineyards, and orchards. It is divided into 10 subdistricts with 202 towns and villages. The district has the best railway connection in whole Basarabia, as it has a railway line crossing from the Hotin District to the Nistru River, and another from Ungheni (in old Roumania) to the capital of the district, the town of Balti, which leads to Jassy. The district has 300,000 population, who with the exception of about 20,000 Russians, and 25,000 Jews, all are Roumanians.

The capital of the district is the town of Balti, with 40,000 population, the majority of which are Roumanians, with about 9,000 Jews, the others being Ruthenians, Russians, Germans, etc. There are about 400 stores, hotels, and restaurants in the town.

5. *Orhei.* Situated between the districts of Chisinau, Balti, Soroca and the Nistru River. It is also an agricultural district, at the same time is the first tobacco growing district in Basarabia, and one of the important places in the wine industries. It has no railway connection. The district is divided into 15 subdistricts, with 210 villages and towns. It has 325,000 population who with the exception of 20,000 Jews, are almost exclusively all Roumanians.

The capital of the district is the town of *Orhei,* with a population of about 25,000, two thirds of which are Jews, the others are Roumanians, and a few Ruthenians, Russians, etc. The Roumanian (Greek Orthodox) church, built by Vasile Lupu, Northern Roumania's ruler, in 1634, is still in existence. Other more important villages are: Tuzora, Telenesti, Rezina, and Criuleni.

6. *Tighina* (known also under its Turkish name of »Bender«). Bounded by the Nistru River, East, and by the districts of Chisinau,

Ismail and Cetatea Alba (Acherman). Railway bridge, over the Nistru River, connected this district with Russia up to Easter Sunday, 1919, when, owing to the Bolshevik danger, it was blown up by the French Army. It has railway connection with Jassy, via Chişinau, and with Galatz, via Reni. As the rest of Basarabia, Tighina, too, is an agricultural district, with many orchards and vineyards. It has a population of 270,000 of which 160,000 are Roumanians, 15,000 Bulgarians, 12,000 Russians, 8,000 Jews, 14,000 Turco-Bulgarians (Gagauti), 9.000 Germans, the rest being various other races. There are 11 subdistricts, with 97 villages.

The capital of the district is the town of Tighina (Bender), with a population of 26,000, one third of which are Jews, nearly one third Roumanians, the rest Germans, Russians, Bulgarians, etc. There is a gymnasium (high school) for girls, another high school supported by the district, and few elementary schools, two steam mills, one brewery, and about 1,000 other business establishments .Other important villages are : Causani, Cimislia, Manzir, Petrovca.

7. *Cetatea Alba* (known also under its Turkish name of »Acherman«). Bounded by the Nistru River and Black Sea, the districts of Tighina, Ismail and Cahul. This is the most prosperous district in Basarabia, producing in proportion the largest quantity of wheat and rye, and having beautiful vineyards, orchards and gardens. The cultivation of gardens is the specialty of the Bulgarian colonists. A good part of the population is engaged in fishing and fish drying industry. The district has a pupulation of 380,000 of which 142,000 are Roumanians, 53,000 Germans, 48,000 Bulgarians, the others are Jews, Russians, Turks, Kozaks, Tartars, etc. There are 185 towns and villages.

The capital of the district is Cetatea Alba (Acherman), with 35,000 inhabitants as follows : 8,000 Roumanians, 8,000 Jews, 5,000 Germans, the others being Turks, Greeks, Bulgarians, Russians, etc. It is situated on the right bank of the Nistru River, where it joins the Black Sea. The old fortress, built by the Roumanian ruler, Stephen the Great, is still in existence. This is one of the oldest towns of Europe, as it was built by the Greeks four or five centuries before Christ. It has two old Roumanian churches dating back about Five hundred years, besides, a beautiful church built in 1832. It has 2 gymnasiums for boys, one for girls, several high schools and elementary schools, one Jewish seminary, etc. It is connected with Jassy via Basarabeanca, Tighina and Chisinau, and with Galatz, via Basarabeanca and Reni, by railway. Other important towns and villages in the district are : Leipzig, Bairamcea, Sarata-Veche, Taraclia.

8. *Ismail.* Bounded by the Danube and the Black Sea, and the districts of Cetatea Alba and Cahul. This district was a component par of old Roumania until 1878, when it was taken by Russia. It still has

the old Roumanian administration. Here the principal occupation of the people is fishing, with agriculture next. It has a total population of 174,000, of which 32,000 are Roumanians, 20,000 Russians, 15,000 Bulgarians, 8,000 Jews, 7,000 Kozaks, 6,000 Germans, 6,000 Turco-Bulgarians, etc. In wealth Ismail District ranks next to Cetatea Alba District, with its rich gardens, orchards and vineyards, and also in cattle raising.

The capital of the district is Ismail with a population of 37,000, of which 11,000 are Jews, 8,000 Roumanians, 6,000 Germans, the others are Russians, Bulgarians, Turks, Kozaks, etc. It has about 400 business establishments, one gymnasium, two high schools, and several elementary schools. Other principal towns and villages are: Chilia, Bolgrad (probably the richest town in the province), Vilcov and Reni.

9. *Cahul.* Bounded by the Prut River, which separates it from the main body of Roumania, and by the districts of Chisinau, Tighina, Cetatea Alba and Ismail. Cahul, too, was under Roumanian rule until 1878, when it was taken by Russia, and it kept its Roumanian administration up to this date. It has 184,000 population, who are almost exclusively Roumanians. Agriculture is the pricipal occupation, but there are many Bulgarian gardens, vineyards and orchards.

The capital of the district is Cahul, with a population of 12,000 of 5,000 are Roumanians, 3,000 Jews, the remainder being, Germans, Bulgarians, Greeks, etc. It is a town of little importance, with practically no access to the outside world, - it has no railway or water communication.

RIVERS.

Navigable rivers. The *Nistru* forming the boundary between Russia and Basarabia is navigable from the town of Atachi, in the district of Soroca, across from the Russian town of Mohilau,—but smaller craft can pass as far North as Hotin. It has a depth from 5 feet to 17 feet,— a total length, from its source, in the Baschid Mountains, in Galitzia, to the Black Sea, of about 900 Kilometers, while its width ranges from the „Portita« near the Russian town of Iampoli of 50 feet, to about 9 Kilometers, at the Black Sea. In Basarabia there 107 villages and 7 towns along the Nistru, while in Russia, 91 villages and 15 towns.

The *Prut* River is also navigable with smaller crafts as far as Ungheni, but, actually, the navigation is, for some time past, discontinued. It is used to a great extent for floating timber and lumber to the city of Galatz. It originates in the Carpathian Mountains, in Basarabia, and after separating the main body of Roumania from Basarabia, at Galatz it joins the Danube. In Basarabia, on the banks of the Prut there are 77 villages and 6 towns.

The *Danube* River, too, is of interest to Basarabia, as it washes

its shores from Reni to the Black sea, for a distance of 170 Kilometers, the province making use of all advantages, it offers in navigation, fishing, etc.

Other Rivers. The *Raut, Cogalnic* and about sixty smaller rivers, and many creeks contribute their share, from an economic point of view, to the wealth of Basarabia, by their rich, fertile valleys and water power.

THE BLACK SEA.

The Black Sea washes about 100 Kilometers of the length of the Basarabian Coast.

LAKES.

In the southern part of Basarabia there are many lakes, the most important of which are: Cahul, Ialpuh, Catlabuh, Chitai, Lacul Sarat Sasic, Lacul Sarat Sagani, Lacul Sarat Alibei and Limanul Sabalat. These lakes make possible an eight million Lei worth of fish industry annually.

MOUNTAINS.

The Carpathians extend to the northern part of Basarabia, its highest peak being the *Magura*, near Balti, from which, in good weather, the city of Jassy (Moldova) is visible. Going southward the altitude is less and less, until about the southern part of the district of Tighina, the prairies begin. The height over the mean sea level varies from 1200 feet, on the North, to 51 feet, the town of Ismail.

DANUBE AND SEA PORTS.

There are no sea ports in Basarabia, however, the steamships which navigate the Danube, find excellent ports at Reni, Ismail, Chilia, Vilcov and smaller crafts at Cetatea Alba. With little dredging Cetatea Alba (Acherman) could be made into an excellent sea-port, being only a short distance from the Black Sea (about 40 Km.)

RAILWAYS.

In Basarabia the railways are of wide gauge, while in main part of Roumania of standard gauge. It is impossible to imagine a more miserable condition of traffic, than there is in Basarabia. The lines and the rolling stock are in bad condition, the employees demoralized and inefficient, with few exceptions. To illustrate their indifference. I mention the fact that at Reni, 100 carloads of American flour was kept in barges, for four weeks without placing at the disposal of the civil Government a single car for the shipment of this flour to the interior of the province,

where the population were at the point of starving, — while as a matter of fact during my investigation I found that at the very station of Reni, during this period, freight cars were placed at the disposal of private persons for the shipment of figgs and oranges, to points, where flour was needed. Most of the Basarabean railway employees were taken over from the Russian system, but the more important positions are held by Roumanians. I gained the impression that a liberal »bakshish« produces wonders, good traffic, good locomotives, always enough freight cars,— while the absence thereof paralyzes the traffic, the locomotives suddenly get out of order, there are no freight cars available for an indefinite period, if even for several months, and again too many »hot boxes«, and other troubles, final result being that there is no service, for one reason or another.

There are railway lines between Jassy (Roumania) via Ungheni to Chisinau and Tighina (Bender), — between Cernovitz (Bucovina) via Noua-Sulitza to Atachi and another branch to Balti and Rezina, — between Tighina (Bender) via Basarabeanca and Reni to Galatz, and to Cetatea Alba (Acherman), branching South-East at Basarabeanca. There is also an uncompleted narrow gauge railway line from Larga (district of Hotin) to within a few Kilometers from the town of Hotin. Traffic-Inspection Service, No. 7, with headquarters at Chisinau, is in charge of the railway service in Basarabia. There is a small locomotive repair shop at Tighina (Bender) employing 400 hands. The railways are the property of the state.

The following towns, capitals of districts, have no railway connection: Hotin, Soroca, Orhei, Ismail and Cahul.

The total length of the railways in Basarabia is 1050 Kilometers.

ROADS.

The railways are not the only proof of the incompetency and greed of the Russian regime, which drew, annually, from Basarabia, in taxes and other contributions for public institutions, an average of 250,000,000 Lei, giving it only 1050 Km, railway line,—but the roads follow as a further proof of maladministration. In no country, in Europe, have I seen such bad roads as in Basarabia. There are only 350 Kilometer long built roads, and these, too, in worst condition, full of holes, four or five yards apart, causing great damage in vehicles and animals. On May 6 th, 1919, I travelled from Chisinau, by automobile, to Orhei, 45 Kilometer distance, and saw four broken down vehicles, and three dying horses. The road is full of dead horse bones. There are several natural roads, in the province, cared for to a slight extent by the villages and towns, which in dry weather are good, much better, than the built roads, but in rainy weather are, practically, impassable.

The following are the principal roads: Ungheni-Ţutora-Chisinau-

Tighina.—The Hotin-Briceni-Balti-Tutora-Gancesti-Bolgrad-Ismail road.—Cetatea Alba-Bolgrad Reni-Galatz road.—Chisinau-Gancesti-Leusani-Albitza-Husi road. — Hotin-Mamaliga Darabani road. — Lipcani-Briceni-Sucureni-Atachi road. — Rascani-Stefanesti road. Sculeni-Balti-Soroca-Road. Balti-Atachi road. Orhei-Balti road. — Tighina-Causani-Cetatea Alba road. Tiganca-Comrat-Tarutin-Sarata road. Bolgrad-Cahul road. Tarutin-Causani road. Tatar-Bunar-Gibrieni-Valcov road. Enichioi-Chilia road.

The length of the natural roads is about 20,000 Kilometers.

CLIMATE.

There are two distinct climatic sections in Basarabia, the Northern and the Southern Basarabia. In the northern districts, including the Tighina District, uniformly warm summers, with frequent and abundant rains, and exceptionally severe winters, with snow storms are predominant. The climate in Southern Basarabia is greatly influenced by the Black Sea currents. From 1900 to 1909, the minimum temperature was — 9.1 degrees, at Grinauti, in the month of January 1909, while the maximum was 24.6, in August, 1906, at Leontievo. These are Centrigrade degrees. For the whole of Basarabia the following are the average temperatures: Winter: 2.4, — Spring: 9.6, — Summer: 21.2, — Autumn: 10.2, — all Centrigrade. The temperature of the air, or better the mean temperature of the air for the month, of January, corresponds with the mean temperature of the soil for the same month, while at a greater depth, say 0.8 meters, that is not case, but it corresponds to the mean temperature of February, which would indicate that owing to the richness of the soil strata, the temperature requires longer period to penetrate through the molecules.

There are abundant rains in the North. Observations show a minimum of 8.7 mm., in January, — 73.2 mm., in June, at Grinauti, — with 19.4 in November and 23.3 in December. At Chisinau, the following figures are available: in June 74.3 mm., maximum, — in January, 16.5 mm., minimum. Cetatea Alba shows 61.7 mm., in June, — 17 6 mm., in November, and 37.2 mm., in December.

At any rate the combination of the climate and rainfall is very favorable for agriculture, and this was one factor that made Basarabia the granary of Eastern Europe.

AGRICULTURE.

Of a total area of 4,400,000 hectars, about 70% is suitable for agriculture and pasture, 20% for gardens, vineyards and orchards, 8% is forests, and 2% arid lands. The working of the land is very primitive and out of date in comparison with the western countries. Agricultural machines are known only to a few rich landowners, — but the greater

part of these machines were destroyed by the bolsheviks. The same is the case with fertilizers, while the soil is rich and it produces without any fertilizer, its producing capacity could be greatly increased by chemicals, but so far only large landowners took advantage of this, the great majority, if using any fertilizer at all, they are using manure. Much improvement is seen in this respect, however, in the Cetatea Alba and Ismail Districts.

The following table shows the progress made by the agriculture *in hectars.*

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION IN HECTARS

	1881	1887	1893	1899
Autumn	321,877	462,946	418,676	490,221
Spring	1,192,460	1,354,229	1,136,836	3,657,703
Total hectars .	1,514,337	1,817,175	1,539,612	4,147,924

The following table shows the progress made im the kind of crops, in area cultivated:

AREA CULTIVATED IN HECTARS

Kind	1881	1887	1893	1899
Autumn rye . .	85,565	170,083	97,334	165,791
Spring » . .	6,431	8,277	2,261	969,991
Autumn wheat .	236,312	292,863	316,342	323,667
Spring » .	411,584	312,481	267,248	389,227
Barley	63,111	81,212	59,294	64,972
Oats	267,595	335,721	328,087	379,974
Potatoes	12,426	13,357	8,846	17,098
Others	431,313	603,181	471,100	725,733

Taking the districts, separately, the following proportion of their surface is cultivated and by the crops enumerated below.

NAME OF THE DISTRICT

Kind	Hotin	Soroca	Balti	Orhei	Ch'sinau	Tighina	Ismail Cahul	Cetatea-Alba
Rye	12.8%	5.3%	—	9.1%	12.7%	7.4%	15.5%	8.5%
Autumn wheat .	19 %	39.8%	32.5%	4.3%	12.4%	6.5%	—	7.4%
Spring wheat . .	—	4.1%	—	21.9%	6.2%	30.9%	24.3%	34.7%
Barley	8.8%	5.6%	6.4%	7.0%	4 %	2.3%	3%	2.9%
Oats	17.5%	9.8%	12.4%	7.7%	9.4%	17 %	23.7%	28.5%
Maize	33.1%	33.9%	—	45 %	47.7%	31.7%	25.1%	14.6%
Tobacco	—	0.4%	0 2%	1.2%	0.4%	—	—	—

The following table shows the repartition of the soil as to its suitability :

District	Gardens Orchards Vineyards	Under cultivation for crops, pastures, hay, etc.	Forests	Sterile lands	
Hotin	37,959	279,467	50,478	8,190	
Soroca.	106,592	320,065	27,688	7,544	
Orhei	83,352	273,707	56,312	5,521	
Balti	155,335	380,433	24,634	11,688	
Chisinau	62,292	227,326	84,936	3,498	
Tighina	59,401	537,032	30,197	16,192	
Cetatea Alba . .	207,431	548,064	2,289	34,970	
Ismail & Cahul. .	56,669	622,507	47	17,693	Approximative
Total . . .	762,962 Hectars	3,140,146 Hectars	276,671 Hectars	195,516 Hectars	

The following table gives a view of the percentage of the kind of the soil for each district, with exception of Ismail and Cahul, for which these data could not be obtained :

District	Soil suitable for agriculture	Pasture	Vineyards	Forests
Hotin	79.9 %	5.9 %	0.1 %	10.6 %
Soroca.	84.7 %	6.1 %	0.5 %	3.9 %
Balti	64.5 %	20.4 %	1.2 %	4.3 %
Orhei	69.5 %	7.0 %	3.8 %	12.6 %
Chisinau . . .	60.2 %	10.6 %	5.8 %	15.6 %
Tighina	66.0 %	23.4 %	3.0 %	3.9 %
Cetatea Alba . .	68.2 %	23.0 %	3.6 %	9.9 %
Ismail & Cahul .	—	—	—	—

In normal years Basarabia was one of the most important granaries of Europe, but since the war, its production shows a considerable decrease to such an extent that the crop of 1918, after the requisitions made by the German Army of Occupation from Roumania, was not sufficient for the population, and 3100 tons of American flour had to be rushed to make up the deficiency and this served its purpose only when reduced rations were introduced. This, comparatively, small assistance, from outside sources, made it necessary to co-ordinate and mobilize all foodstuffs in Basarabia and equalize it between the several districts and regions, which owing to the bad transportation facilities was not an easy task. Here, the American Relief Administration earned the so often expressed gratitude of the provincial authorities, American ideas being, often, more wellcome than the flour, itself. Here are a few facts of the grain production of Basarabia :

Maximum *autumn wheat* production is recorded for the year of 1913 with a quantity of 440,000,000 Kilograms, — hectars averaging 800—1000 Kg;

Minimum in 1918, a total of 71,255,712 Kg., hectars averaging 115 Kg.

The *spring wheat* shows a decrease from 800 — 900 Kg., per hectar, in former years, to 94 Kg., per hectar in 1918, with details, as follows:

District of Ismail	5,045,120	Kg.	from	28,732	Hectars
Tighina	2,333,504	"	"	32,309	"
Cetatea Alba	1,898,080	"	"	25,702	"
Cahul	659,648	"	"	9,964	"
Soroca	234,400	"	"	3,735	"
Balti	249,840	"	"	2,752	"
Chisinau	194,400	"	"	3,177	"
Orhei	152,712	"	"	2,516	"

The *rye* showed a maximum production in 1915, about 145,000,000 Kilograms, averaging 900 — 1200 Kilograms per hectar, while in 1918, as follows:

District of Ismail	5,691,280	Kg.,	from	24,877	hectars	averaging	228	Kg.,	per	Hectar
Cetatea Alba	5,635,008	"	"	28,579	"	"	193	"	"	"
Tighina	2,673,248	"	"	25,977	"	"	118	"	"	"
Cahul	2.218,320	"	"	32,090	"	"	66	"	"	"
Chisinau	2,114,576	"	"	21,710	"	"	106	"	"	"
Orhei	2,076,080	"	"	29,732	"	"	83	"	"	"
Balti	1,974,864	"	"	16,171	"	"	122	"	"	"
Soroca	999.808	"	"	9,180	"	"	118	"	"	"
Total	23,203,184	"	"	177,316	"	"	130	"	"	"

The oats show a maximum quantity of 772,000,000 Kilograms în 1913, and a minimum of 61,000,000 Kg., 1918, as follows:

District of Balti	8,634,784	Kg.	from	66,268	hectars	averaging	142	Kg.
Ismail	14,515,680	"	"	118,876	"	"	122	"
Cetatea Alba	21,467,104	"	"	161,861	"	"	133	"
Soroca	6,157,848	"	"	55,859	"	"	126	"
Tighina	4,484,608	"	"	73,786	"	"	82	"
Cahul	2,327,744	"	"	66,746	"	"	35	"
Orhei	1,479,360	"	"	46,765	"	"	43	"
Chisinau	807,264	"	"	25,506	"	"	54	"
Total	61,413,392	"	"	603,271	"	"	101	"

The *maize* reached a maximum production in 1911, with 1057,000,000 Kg., from 769,502 hectars,—averaging, in normal years, 1000 — 1800 Kg., per hectar. The following is the production of 1918:

District of Soroca	24,067,632	Kg.	from	68,435	hectars,	average	486	Kg.
Chisinau	22,830,096	"	"	53,063	"	"	499	"
Tighina	29,817,456	"	"	86,222	"	"	486	"
Balti	36,773,248	"	"	82,666	"	"	634	"
Orhei	16,090,496	"	"	108,573	"	"	376	"
Ismail	14,872,400	"	"	64,280	"	"	231	"
Cetatea Alba	9,620,064	"	"	75,818	"	"	181	"
Cahul	4,656,368	"	"	61,395	"	"	122	"
Total	158,727,760	"	"	600,452	"	"	264	"

The *barley*, between 1911—1915, averaged 80,000,000 Kg., annually, but it shows a great decrease for 1918:

District of Cetatea Alba	3,835,120 Kg	, from	27,362	hectars,	averaging	140	Kg.
Soroca	2,707,216	"	11,017	"	"	266	"
Orhei	2,069,584	"	26,324	"	"	93	"
Balti	1,338,632	"	9,034	"	"	162	"
Ismail	977,984	"	7,578	"	"	129	"
Chisinau	1,215,168	"	9,589	"	"	157	"
Cahul	386,856	"	8,827	"	"	160	"
Tighina	274,600	"	9,265	"	"	54	"
Total	8,971,040	"	108,996	"	"	70	"

There is record of 170,000,000 Kg., of *potatoes*, in 1915, from 13,240 hectars, while, in 1918, an area of 17,455 hectars only produced 20,000,000 Kilograms.

Vegetables, like *onions*, *cabbage*, etc., made better showing in 1918 than the foregoing articles, while the *textiles* are decreasing since 1911.

The following table shows the area under cultivation, as of June 13, 1919, together with a forecast of 1919 harvest:

STATEMENT

OF THE CONDITION OF CROPS IN THE PROVINCE OF BASARABIA, AS OF JUNE 13, 1919

District	Wheat	Rye	Oats	Barley	Maize
Hotin	29,920 tons	13,440 tons	19,200 tons	10,304 tons	100,800 tons
	34,000 hect.	24,000 hect.	20,000 hect.	7,000 hect.	70,000 hect.
Soroca	87,600 tons	19,000 tons	46,096 tons	11,840 tons	115,200 tons
	75,000 hect.	17,000 hect.	43,000 hect.	10,000 hect.	80,000 hect.
Balti	77,024 tons	18,688 tons	39,840 tons	8,880 tons	68,160 tons
	58,000 hect.	16,000 hect.	30,000 hect.	7,500 hect.	60,000 hect.
Orhei	44,000 tons	11,520 tons	70, 40 tons	4,464 tons	28,800 tons
	50,000 hect.	12,000 hect.	8,000 hect.	4,500 hect.	30,000 hect.
Chişinau	24,624 tons	16,230 tons	18,880 tons	7,552 tons	56,000 tons
	27,000 hect.	15,000 hect.	20,000 hect.	8,000 hect.	50,000 hect.
Tighina	77,760 tons	16,112 tons	33,840 tons	3,840 tons	79,360 tons
	90,000 hect.	19,000 hect.	45,000 hect.	4,000 hect.	80,000 hect.
CETATEA ALBA	84,320 tons	7,680 tons	78,720 tons	40 000 tons	60,160 tons
	170,000 hect.	15,000 hect.	120,000 hect.	50,000 hect.	80,000 hect.
Ismail	49,920 tons	30,400 tons	46,400 tons	2,688 tons	48,000 tons
	52,000 hect.	38,000 hect.	50,000 hect.	4,000 hect.	50,000 hect.
Cahul	46,080 tons	25,600 tons	41,760 tons	2,016 tons	38,400 tons
	48,000 hect.	32,000 hect.	45,000 hect.	3,000 hect.	40,000 hect.
Total	521,248 tons	158,670 tons	490,446 tons	133,920 tons	594,880 tons
	604,000 hect.	188,000 hect.	381,000 hect.	165,500 hect.	540,000 hect.

From this statement it would appear that the year of 1919 compares favorably with the normal years, showing nearly $85^0/_0$ of the normal production, and if conditions continue, as heretofore, about $30^0/_0$ of the 1919 crop will be available for export from the province.

The decrease noted is due to the war, and, in 1918, also to the bad weather conditions.

The year of 1918 was a bad year for the hay crops, too, as hardly one tenth, only 11,066,720 Kg., was realized, of the normal production.

Tobacco is being cultivated in Basarabia to a considerable extent in 1913, 3,500,000 Kilograms were produced.

ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS.

As to the economic value of *orchards* to Basarabia, below is given a table from the available rairoad data, which shows the shipment of the fruit to the principal cities of Russia, this, however, does not include the shipment made by water, e. g., to Odessa, which was considerable.

1910

City to which shipment was made	Apples	Walnut	Pears	Peaches
	IN KILOGRAMS			
Petrograd . . .	49,140	245,700	65,520	1,228,500
Moscow	—	180,180	—	475,020
Warsow	32,760	262,080	65,520	163,800
Kiew	147.420	114,660	16,380	163,800
Harkow	—	81,900	—	16,380
Odessa	819,000	1,162,980	65,529	245,700
Lodzi	114,660	163,800	65,520	98,280
Riga	—	114,660	—	32,760

EXPORT OF PRUNES IN 1906

Petrograd	196,560 Kg.
Moscow	146,420 „
Warsow	212,940 „
Kiew	98,280 „
Harkow	147,420 „
Odessa.	491,400 „
Lodzi	98,280 „
Riga.	49,140 „

Basarabia makes Roumania the sixth largest *wine* producing country in the world, in quantity. In Basarabia it covers 42,200 hectars, at present, with a production ot between 700,000 Hectoliters. About half of the production is exported.

FORESTS.

Basarabia in the old days, about 60 years ago, had extensive forests, but its forest area under the Russian Government was diminishing, without planting new trees, another proof of the incompetence of the provincial authorities, during the Russian days. Conservation of the

natural resources was either unknown to them, or if known, then criminally neglected. Below is a table showing forest area of 1896 and of 1919:

District	1896		1919	
Hotin	50,470	Hectars	46,893	Hectars
Soroca	27,688	"	19,076	"
Balti	24,634	"	22,442	"
Orhei	26,314	"	52,821	"
Chisinau. . . .	84,936	»	59,125	"
Tighina	30,197	"	23,525	"
Cetatea Alba . .	2,289	"	5,580	"
Ismail & Cahul .	47	"	19,894	"
Total . .	276,581	"	249,356	"

In the whole province there are 78,919 hectars of forest between 5—10 years old, 157,847 hectars, between 10—30 years, and 13,625 hectars over 30 years old.

As to the ownership of the forests, individulas own 160,775 hectars, foreign monasteries 45,780 hectars, peasant fraternities 26,705 hectars, the State 11,137 hectars, hon·e monasteries 4955 hectars.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

In 1893 there were in Basarabia 345,000 horses, 792,006 cattle (horned, large), 1,628,454 head of sheep, 380,516 hogs, 17,735 goats, 396 bisons, and 385 others.

Below is given a table of live stock, in Basarabia, as of June 13, 1919:

LIVE STOCK STATISTICS

FOR THE PROVINCE OF BASARABIA, AS OF JUNE 13, 1919

District.	Calves under 1 year	Cows & Heifers over 1 year	Other Cattle	Horses	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Others
Cahul . .	12,049	20,268	12,407	36,312	27,194	187,847	3020	59
Balti . . .	31,969	45,120	25,210	67,548	76,211	303,365	2666	—
Tighina . .	16,997	41,563	23,535	62,376	43,260	291,150	1731	580
Chisinau. .	9.044	21,118	18,184	26,904	38,267	86,773	2228	4
Soroca . .	17,684	31,100	17,432	39,907	42,561	115,969	1481	2
Ismail . .	8,609	18,886	6,634	41,266	34,464	118 168	684	40
Orhei . . .	15,552	24,638	18,145	34,823	35,058	37,949	2280	1
Cetatea Alba	29,485	59,110	24,683	106,615	96,415	254,586	1506	32
Hotin . . .	24,000	11,009	24 300	12,135	35,000	100,000	1500	—
Total. .	165,389	272,812	170,530	430,743	451,440	1,495,807	17,096	718

Basarabean *bees* produce, annually, 150,000 kg., honey, and 85,000 Kg., wax, — while the *silk worms* show a yearly production of 4000 kilograms.

THE AGRAR REFORM.

To date of Basarabia's re-union with Roumania, in 1918, the distribution of the land was very unsatisfactory. Nearly 98,000 families had no land, or only little, — 90,000 peasants had only one half hectar, or less, — 250,000 peasants had between two and seven hectars, — 130.000 had over seven hectars.

The following table shows, how the land was divided in Basarabia, prior to the present system :

Owner	Hectars	Proportion to the whole area	
Nadelnaiea	1,876,642	39,61%	inalienable »peasant« property
Individuals	1,391,295	33,18	
Rezesi	232,090	5,21	descendants of »free men«
Village fratermity . .	224,483	5,03	
Foreign monastery . .	144,636	3,21	
Russian » . .	—	0,40	
State	100,090	2,26	
Cities, Towns, etc. . .	73,548	1,61	
Distr. Governments . .	9,355	0,02	
Churches	347,242	0,92	
Peasant's Bank . . .	62,242	1,41	
Railroads	4,943	0,12	
Priests (Bishop) . . .	2,528	0,05	
Public institutions . .	44,246	1,00	
Colonists	79,458	1,05	
Others	143,729	3,94	
The Nistru River . . .	40,699	0,90	
	4,461,618	100%	

In 1918 one million hectars were expropriated by the Roumanian Government from the large landowners and divided up between the peasants who actually worked the land (in most cases the very same land) during the Russian regime. In every case the former owners were indemnified by the Government. I will give a comparison between the number of proprietors in 1905 and 1918 :

	1918	1905	
Total number of families	450,000 . . .	. 370,000	
Families owning land .	352,000 . . .	. 290,000	
Have no land	98,000 . . .	. 80,000	families
Have less than 7 hectars	243,500 . . .	. 200,000	»
Between 7—50	107,500 . . .	. 87,508	
Over 50 Hct.	3,000 . . .	. 2,500	

This shows that during the period of thirteen years the number of the families having no land property increased by 18,000, their property having been bought by other owners, or that such families increased. The increase of population is calculated at 1.6% per annum.

About one hundred hectars are being left every large landowner for his own purpose, the rest taken away at a price fixed on the basis of the product of the last five years, the quality of the land, and neighboring lands considered. One fourth of the price is borne by the State, three fourths by the new proprietor, who is paying 1% per year for 40 years. The old proprietor, for the time being, is given a 5% bond. The „Casa Noastra", an agricultural bank of Chisinau, of official character, is transacting the Government's business in this respect. It is stipulated that no one can acquire more than 20 hectars of land, and that all land having no lawful owner shall be administered by the „Casa Noastra".

INDUSTRIES.

There are in Basarabia.

26 Tobacco factories,
10 Leather tanning establishments,
25 Soap factories (mostly in Chisinau and Balti),
118 Oil factories, as follows: 18 hand-driven, 1 by water, 53 by horses, 13 by petroleum, 29 steam (using wood), 4 by benzine,
24 Cloth and demin factories, as follows: 10 water-power, 4 steam (using wood), 9 petroleum, 1 using benzine,
13 Wool washing establishments, — one hand-driven, the others by horses,
5 Cotton factories, 4 petroleum, — 1 steam (wood),
17 Beer factories (breweries), most of which stopped the work on account of lack of food,
36 Alcohol factories (distilleries), with a production of 85,000 Hectoliters of 97° alcohol, and 120,000 Hectoliters of normal alcohol,
6 Maccaroni factories,
1 Sugar factory, at Zarojeni (Hotin), but put out of commission by the Bolsheviks, although not beyond repair,
8570 Flour mills, of which 570 are using steam, the others are water or wind mills,
1 Locomotive repair shop at Tighina.

A total of 280 large and medium factories and other business establishments are recorded in the Central Government's office, with an estimated yearly product of 16,000,000 Lei. This, in addition of the above-mentioned mills (8570), and 1550 smaller factories and establishments. Yet, this is far from enough to supply the needs of the 3,000,000 population with exception of alcohol distilleries, half of the product of which was always exported.

Almost every larger town has an electric light plant, but Chisinau is the only place which has electric railway service.

The principal cause for the low state of the industry is the lack of capital, lack of the spirit for undertakings and conservatism, sticking to the old ways.

COMMERCE.

Grain, wine, alcohol, wool, domestic animals, milk products, fruit, hides and fish are the principal articles of export, coal, wood and manufactured goods of all kinds are imported. As the Russian Government considered Basarabia a part of Russia, no separate records were kept of import and export. From the available shipping and other data it is estimated that the yearly import of the province amounted to 128,000,000 Lei, — the export to 230,000,000 Lei, the internal commerce to 270,000,000 Lei, — Chisinau City's commerce 110,000,000 Lei, — and the product of the fisheries to 8,000,000 Lei.

There are 95 large banks, 120 medium banks and 420 cooperative associations which lately took a semi-official character and are being organized, practically, in every larger village.

FISHERIES.

The lakes in the southern part of the province are rich in the best kind of fishes, however, the fish industry is undeveloped, the method of operation and instruments used are primitive. Even under these circumstances nearly eight million Lei are realized yearly from this source.

MINERALS.

There are no *minerals* to speak of in Basarabia with exception of ordinary stone used for building purposes, some of which is exported to Odessa and Harkow. Inferior grade of coal is found near Bolgrad.

LABOR.

There are no permanent labor organizations in the province, but workers do form *ad hoc* organizations at times in order to obtain better wages. Wages show an increase from 300% to 1000% in comparison with the wages prevailing before the war. Agricultural laborers earn between 15 and 25 Lei, per day, and board; permanent farm workers receive about 150 Lei, board and clothing, per month; industrial workers, skilled, receive 30—35 Lei, a day. Office clerks, etc., from 500 Lei upward. There is a reasonable supply of labor in the province. Working hours and working conditions are fair, as a rule office hours are less than eight hours a day, usually from 10 A. M., to 3 P. M., with light lunch or tea served in the office about 12 M.

OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS, ETC., TOUCHING ECONOMICS.

There is a King's Order (Decret-Lege) regulating the slaughter of the domestic animals and aiming the conservation of all female and such male animals which may be needed for breeding and increase of the live stock.

A similar order provides for re-forestation and regulates the cutting of timber, etc., etc., a topic so badly neglected by the Russian Government.

Another order, during the present need of foodstuffs, regulates the sale and purchase of all foodstuffs. This, in view of the good crops, is about to be revoked in a week or two, but a new order places certain restrictions on the sale and export of the agricultural products after the new harvest.

ADMINISTRATION.

Like other parts of Roumania, Basarabia, too, is divided into districts, at the head of which are the prefects. Each district is composed of several, about four, subdistricts, under the administration of subprefects, and the subdistricts into communes (towns or villages), conducted by mayors. For the administration of finance matters the communes are grouped into volostas, at the head of which are the presidents. In the villages the jandarmi are doing the police work (military force), while in towns an din the city of Chisinau there is a well organized police force. Chisinau is the only city, independent from the districts, with its mayor, police prefect, etc., similar to our cities. Lately, the administration of the larger towns and that of the city of Chisinau was changed, it having been placed into the hands of a »temporary commission«, the president of which it is understood to be equivalent to the mayor. This, pending the result of the elections, proclaimed for the next month.

Basarabia is represented in the Roumanian Cabinet by two »Ministers for Basarabia«, one which represents the Government in Basarabia, and as such has supervision over the administration officials of the province. It sends 90 Representatives and 45 Senators to the Roumanian Parliament.

Justice is administered through the Roumanian courts of each district, the justices of peace, and High Court of Appeal of Chisinau. Each court has special Basarabean judges in addition to the Roumanian judges owing to the transitory period, when both the Roumanian and the Russian laws are administered, especially in civil cases. State attorney and other institutions in connections with the administration of justice, with functions similar to those in the United States are also found in Basarabia.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

There are 1929 grammar (elementary) schools, — 13 Lyceums for boys, — 15 Lyceums for girls, — 3 normal schools, — 3 real Liceums, — 1 agricultural school, — 2 Commercial High Schools, — 4 Religious High Schools and Seminaries, and 28 High Schools, without full course, — 7 Jewish Liceums, — 1 German Liceum, — and 12 other Lyceums and Gymnasiums. Besides, there are many kindergartens, evening schools, etc., museums, libraries. The school attendance is compulsory, — the

language of instruction is Roumanian for the lower school classes, while the higher class, for a transitory period, may continue in Russian, with the Roumanian language, added, as compulsory study.

During the Russian regime the use of the Roumanian language in Basarabian schools was prohibited, — while the Roumanians allow several Russian and Jewish, German, Bulgarian and Ukrainian Lyceums to teach all subjects in the language, they desire, but the Roumanian language shall be taken up as a study.

NEWSPAPERS, THEATERS, ETC.

There are two daily papers in Chisinau, the »Sfatul Tarei«, in Roumanian, and the »Bessarabia« in Russian. In Russian days no Roumanian publication was permitted. There are several weekly and monthly papers, both in Chisinau and in the districts. »Cuvant Moldovenesc«, by Mr. Halippa, appeared many times, notwithstanding the Russian rule. Today it is printed with Cyril letters, but in Roumanian language. »Tighina«, »Desteptarea«, »Unirea«, »Cetatea Alba«, etc., are some of the country papers.

There are several literary societies, art clubs, both Roumanian and Russian, but there is no permanent theatrical organization, although there are beautiful theatre buildings, which, at present, are used for war purposes.

RELIGION.

The Greek-Orthodox religion is dominant in the province, under the Roumanian Bishop of Chisinau, with 1200 churches and 22 monasteries in the whole of Basarabia. There are other Catholic, Protestant, etc., in all said 87 churches, and 207 Jewish Synagogues. There are many other religions wich came into Basarabia from Russia and which differ more or less from the Greek-Orthodox Church, and some of which show almost »foolish« bigotism. Here, I have in mind the custom of the »Scapetii«, which, in their religious conviction, castrate themselves after two years married life. They are Russians and come from the regions of the Caucasus.

SANITATION.

I am told that Basarabia is one the healthiest countries of Europe, but this I was unable to verify, as the typhus is raging, at present, to such an extent that there are villages in which they lost over 500 persons through this disease, in the last few months. Hospital cases in Chisinau show a mortality of 10%, in the country hospitals 12%, home cases 18%, persons over 50 years of age nearly 80%. Today, there are in Chisinau 400 typhus cases. Small pox and tuberculosis also is prevailent at present. There are in Basarabia 490 physicians,

with 910 other medical personnel, and 95 hospitals, with 4500 beds. At Costujeni, near Chisinau, there is an insane asylum with 1140 patients.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Social difference is about to disappear on account of rights of birth and taking the trend of other modern countries. This, however, is true only with the educated class. The peasant class has peculiar social differences. There are three kinds of peasants in Basarabia. The »peasant«, descendant of peasants or slaves,-the »razesi«, descendants of »free men« or of free peasants, the »mazils« descendants of rich landlords or noble men. These three classes, while may be equally poor, or equally rich, or equally illiterate, behave with certain reservation toward each other, and do not usually intermarry. The Jews, rich landlords, Army officers, Government Officials and, professionals form about the same categories with each other and their own kind (proper) as in other countries, class pride, virtues and prejudices included.

There are many beneficial associations caring for the orphans, other poor children, aged people, sick and ordinary poor. The peasants lead a clean moral life, while the larger towns and the city of Chisinau do not differ from other countries in this respect. Chisinau is very congested, has many poor people and in the congestion and misery immorality finds fertile soil.

ETHNOGRAPHY.

It was stated at the beginning of this work that Basarabia has the aspect of a Roumanian (Moldovan) land as from its northern part, the District of Hotin, near Bucovina, to the Black Sea, the Roumanian language is spoken. This statement was made on my actual observation during my travel from actual contact and conversation with the people. I hold that about two thirds of the whole population are Roumanians (Moldoveni) although the number of those who speak this language is still larger, and of those who do not understand it is comparatively small. In the larger towns or the city of Chisinau one meets considerable number of people who do not speak Roumanian but these are, as a rule, newcomers, Russian officers or Russian ex-Government officials and, now, there are many Russian refugees, who selected to ask for the protection of the Roumanian Government. There are few Basarabeans, born, brought up in Basarabia, who do not speak Roumanian, these one could find, mostly, in the Cetatea Alba (Acherman) District.

Let us see what the Russian authors say about it :

A Russian General Staff officer, named Zasciuk writes: »Basarabia is inhabited by Moldoveni, who comprise 3/4 of the total population, etc., etc.« This was an official report to the Russian Minister of War.

A. Nesterovsky, Warsaw, 1910, writes: »*Almost all of the inhabitants of the Hotin District are Moldoveni, which one can recognize from their*

very type. Even the Russians, under the influence of the Moldoveni, changed their clothing and wear, and their ways of having good time, etc.«

Professor Kociubinsky is worried that the Russians lose their identity and language.

Latest available official Russian statistics admit only 47.58% Roumanians, but claim 19.62% Russians, with 11.79% Jews, 5.33% Bulgarians, 3% Germans, etc., etc. On the other hand Roumanian statistics claim 70% Roumanians (Moldoveni), 14.5% Russians (Ruthenians, etc.), 6.1% Jews, 3.7% Bulgarians, etc., etc.

There is exaggeration in both, although I believe the Roumanian is nearer to be correct, about 65 — 66%, but the Jewish population is nearer 10%, than 6%.

The following races inhabit Basarabia :

Roumanians. They are called Moldoveni as Basarabia up to its occupation by the Russians, about one hundred years ago, was part of Moldova. They form the main stock of the population, are found in the whole province. They are descendants of the Dacians and Romans, their lanquage is some sort of Latin.

Jews. In number follow the Roumanians forming about on tenth of the population.

Malo-Russians (Ukrainians), of which about 225,000 are found in Basarabia, scattered all over. In the Hotin District there are 105,000 Malo-Russians, mixed with 180,000 Roumanians, 40,000 Jews, and other races! They were colonized by the Russian Government in the place of the Roumanians, who were colonized in the interior part of Russia, in the Caucasus and in Siberia. The purpose of this colonization is obvious, to Russianize the Roumanians in the Hotin District, and Russianize also the Roumanians colonized in Russia, but the result tells another story. Just the opposite happened, the Roumanians in the interior part of Russia up to this date speak Roumanian, while the greater part of the Malo-Russians became Roumanians, speak Roumanian or at least understand Roumanian.

Velico Russians. There are about 45,000 in Basarabia. They are refugees from Russia, mostly from political and religious reasons. To this race belong the greater part of the ex-Government officials, Army officers, etc. At one time, just after the annexation of Basarabia to Russia, the Government did not prosecute the fugitives from the justice, if they escaped into Basarabia and remained therein. The bankruptcy of the bankrupt ex-Rusian Government manifests itself in many ways, if one sets down and analyzes its acts.

Poles. There are about 20,000 Poles in Basarabia, having emigrated from Podolia in 1855-1857. Most of them settled in the

District of Chisinau, Soroca and partly in Hotin, althougth they can be found all over the province.

Greeks. There were Greeks in Basarabia as far back as the XV Century, but the last immigration on record is that of 1821. They number about 10,000 and live mostly in the Cetatea Alba, Chisinau and Ismail Districts.

Germans about 70,000 in number, mostly in the Cetatea Alba District, are the most prosperous of all Basarabean races.

Bulgarians began their immigration in Basarabia in 1769, and kept it up to 1878. They number now about 60,000 and own the prosperous gardens of the South.

There are many other races, especially in the South, Tartars, Turco-Bulgars, French, Kozaks, Armenians, etc., etc., occupying here and there whole villages.

HISTORY.

PERIOD BEFORE THE ROMANS.

630 B. C. according to Herodotus, the Scyths occupy the regions between the Don, Danube and Northern shores of the Black Sea.

513 — 508 » Darius Histaspes, the king of Persians leads an expedition against the Scyths on the banks of the lower Danube.

500 — 450 » Greeks settle at the mouth of the Nistru River, forming the Thyros colony.

359 — 326 » In the time of Phillip II, king of Macedonia, the Ghetians and Dacians, Thracian tribes, occupy the land, north of Danube.

50 These two tribes unite and form a powerful empire, under Bocrebistes.

ROMAN PERIOD.

43 — 14 » The *Romans* conquer the lands adjacent to the lower Danube, including Southern Basarabia, forming the province of *Moesia Inferior*.

85 A. D. Decebal re-establishing the Dacian Empire becomes a serious menace to the Romans.

102 — 106 » The Romans, under Emperor Nerva Trajanus, annihilate Decebal's domination, forming a Roman province from same, and immediately begann to colonize Romans thereon.

211 — 217 » Dacia, now a Roman colony, is for the first time attacked by the Goths, the first of the Barbar tribes, who settled between the Nistru and Don Rivers.

270	A. D.	Emperor Aurelianus abandons Dacia and it falls into the hands of the Goths, remaining for several centuries under the rule of the barbars.

PERIOD, UNDER THE RULE OF THE BARBAR TRIBES.

270 — 375	A. D.	Under the rule of the Goths.
375 — 453	»	The Huns displace the Goths and subject them to their rule.
453 — 557	»	The domination of the Ghepisians.
557 — 635	»	The avars' rule.
635 — 830	»	The Bulgarian domination.
830	»	The Hungarians settle between the Nipru (Dnieper), Danube and the Black Sea.
894 — 898	»	The Magyars (Hungarians) beaten by the Pecenegi-s settle in the present Hungary.
1057 —	»	The Pecenegi-s entering the Byzantin Empire are replaced by the Cumans.

ROUMANIAN PERIOD.

1000 —	»	The Magyars (Hungarians) upon taking Transylvania fight the several Roumanian reigning princes, who formed their states in the mountainous country under the protection of Byzantin Empire.
1000 — 1240	»	The Magyars, after taking up the Catholic religion, persecute the Orthodox Roumanians, who, in great numbers, leave Transylvania for the countries on the lower Danube and Nistru River.
1240		The Tartar devastation prevents further expansion of the Roumanians.
1343		After the defeat of the Tartars, the Roumanians begin to organize under the »Cnezi« and »Voevozi« as chiefs.
1359		The Roumanian prince, Bogdan, of Maramures (Hungary), being persecuted by king Robert of Hungary, leaves that country and settles East of Carpathians forming the State of Moldova.
1359 — 1380	A. D.	Bogdan's successors extend their frontiers to the Nistru River and the Black Sea. *(This includes the present Basarabia).*
1359 — 1500	»	Wars of Independence with the Turcs, Magyars, Poles and Tartars under Stephen the Great, in all 36 wars.

1513	A. D.	Moldova accepts the suzerainty of Turkey, preserving its independence in internal and external affairs.
1513 — 1711	»	The Turks subjugate more and more of Moldova and take the Moldovan towns of *Acherman* (*Cetatea Alba*) *Chilia Bender* (*Tighina*) *and Hotin.*
1711	»	Cantemir, the Prince of Moldova, in order to shake off the Turkish yoke, allies himself with Peter, the Great, Emperor of Russia, but they both are beaten, and the Turks displace the Roumanian princes in Moldova with Greek princes, called Phanariots.
1739	»	The Russians enter Moldova and pillage and robb everything they can.
1769 — 1774	»	Russians have another war with Turkey, when they again pillage Moldova.
1775	»	After division of Poland (1772) Austria takes the Northern par *of Moldova called Bucovina*, the capital of which at that time was Suceava.
1787 — 1792	»	Russia has another war with Turkey, which means another pillage of Moldova.

RUSSIAN RULE.

1812	»	Russia takes part of Moldova, the present Basarabia.
1816	»	Czar Alexander I accepts Basarabia's autonomy.
1825	»	» Nicholas II does away with the autonomy and inaugurates a policy of Russification.
1856	»	The Treaty of Paris gives Moldova back the Southern part of Basarabia.
1859	»	Moldova and Valachia unite.
1877	»	Russo-Turkish War. The Russians having been beaten asked for Roumania's assistance, with which they defeat the Turks, but the ingrate Russians take from Roumania the Southern part of Basarabia.
1878 — 1905	»	Untold sufferings of the Roumanians under the Russians rule and the drastic Russification policy.
1905	»	Democratic movement in Russia.
1914	»	War with Germany.
1916	»	Roumania enters the war on the side of the Allies.

ROUMANIAN PERIOD (AGAIN).

1917 A. D. Russian revolution, — the State Council of Basarabia, backed by the Bassarabean soldiers declare Basarabia independent under the name of »Republica Moldoveneasca« (Moldovan Republic).

1918 » The retiring Russian troops pillage and robb everything in Basarabia, whereupon the State Council and the Government of Basarabia votes to unite with Roumania, in order to be saved from the Bolshevism.

JEWS AND THE ROUMANIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

„We will do what the peasants do, if they vote we will vote, too, as Roumanian citizens“ told me the head of the Jewish organizations, in Basarabia, speaking of the coming, Iuly, 1919, elections. Roumania extended citizenship to all people in Greater Roumania, but it has to be accepted formally before a judge.

The »peasants' party« includes and supports all Roumanian Government representatives here, who are Basarabeans, not necessarily Roumanians.

OUSTANDING NEEDS OF THE PROVINCE

1. Peace, or a binding declaration by the Great Powers to whom it belongs. »We are like an accused awaiting trial, a prominent Basarabean told me, with our hands tied, we cannot start business or any work, we do not know what is coming. Are we to be returned to the Russian rule or remain with the Roumanians? In Basarabia, there is as much peace as in France, Italy or England, why then the Great Powers have no pity on us and tell what they want to do with us, so we may start to work?«

2. Railroads.

3. Roads.

4. Factories to supply with manufactured goods 3,000,000 people, who form a quasi isolated solid block between the Prut and Nistru Rivers and the Black Sea.

5. Hundreds of thousands of assorted agricultural implements and machineries.

6. Merchant marine with appropriate piers at Reni, Ismail, Chilia, Vilcov and after some dredging and Cetatea Alba (Acherman), principally, for the export of almost half million tons of grain, more than three million hectoliters of wine, besides the tobacco, forage, wool, etc., and also for importation.